IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tomoaki OMOTO et al.

Mail Stop: PCT

Serial No. NEW

Attorney Docket No. 2006 0381A

Filed March 21, 2006

POWDERED MOLDING POWDER FOR CONTINUOUS CASTING OF STEEL [Corresponding to PCT/JP2004/014347 Filed September 30, 2004]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution, please amend the present application as follows: